
DESCRIPTION:  Interview #1.  Service with the Voter Education Project (VEP): his selection as director of VEP; comment on Justice Department’s assistance to VEP; formulation of the confrontation strategy of Greenwood; his functions as VEP’s director; VEP’s role in formation of Congress of Federated Organizations (COFO) in Mississippi; results of white assistance to register black voters; assessment of VEP’s accomplishment of its goals; VEP’s relationship to major civil rights organizations—especially NAACP, CORE, SNCC, and SCLC—and some of their leaders. Observation on attitude of Justice Department officials towards civil rights during his service as a special assistant. Personal background, including service in World War II and post-war civil rights actions in Arkansas. The school integration crisis in Little Rock: handling several law suits involved; comment on Justice Department’s cooperation; part played by Orval Faubus in the crisis.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Steven Lawson, 1970]